

Then they have no proper church. In the little room, 18x16, which has been fitted up for service, there is scant space for the worshippers when one end has been set apart as a sort of chancel with its altar and little brass cross, to give at least some idea of the dignity of our service. Out of their small means the native converts have subscribed enough to buy a site, and they now plead with us to build the church for them. Seven hundred dollars would do it. There must be men here, possibly among ourselves, who could do it and never feel it—and yet it is not done! We send out pittances—pardon me, they are pittances—and the missionaries are hampered and the work is hindered. Surely it is our duty to see that these workers have the common comforts of life, such as will enable them to do their utmost in the task they have undertaken, as well as our loving sympathy amid frequent trial and discouragement. They have a claim upon us for *all* that we, by a little prayerful self-denial can give—we who have so much of luxury in things spiritual and temporal. God grant that our Master, through our work and prayers, "may see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied."

J. C. R.

WORK IN JAPAN.

Rev. Masazo Kakuzen, native deacon of the Canadian Church, sends us the following report of his work. The outlook is brighter this year than last. There is to be a general Synod in Osaka in April, and Mr. Kakuzen is going to represent the Canadian Mission there. The following is Mr. Kakuzen's report:

Matsumoto, Japan, Feb. 21st, 1896.

To the Secretary-Treasurer of the D. F. M. S.:

DEAR SIR,—Our work during the whole of last year was chiefly in sowing seeds in this town and its neighboring villages, and so what was actually gathered in is very small. Three men and one woman were received as catechumens, and two men and one child were baptized at different times during the year. One of the two baptized men was Mr. Kennedy's Japanese teacher since June. He was baptized on the Sunday before Christmas, but, much to our sorrow, left us shortly after with the expressed intention of going over to Formosa, the newly obtained possession of Japan.

He visited his people at his native place, to say good-bye to them, who disapproved his adventurous enterprise, and urged him to put it off for some years. So he has changed his mind and is coming back here bringing his wife and child with him, to take up his former position, which has not been filled yet since his departure.

The bishop was here on the 20th of May, accompanied by Mrs. Bickersteth. They trav-

elled over the two difficult passes between Matsumoto and Uyeda, which are respectively called Hofukuji and Cariyahara. Messrs. Waller and Kennedy also came over with them from Nagano. The next morning four men and one girl were confirmed by the Bishop at our little preaching house—the first confirmation ever held at Matsumoto. Only two of the candidates lived in the town, and the others came either on that day or the night before from their homes.

The distance travelled by them varied from eight to twenty miles.

Although there were several removals of the members of our congregation to other districts, the deficiency was made up by the coming of Mr. Kennedy and his whole household from Nagano, toward the end of September. He came here just in time to extend our work, which was in need of more laborers.

Collections made during the year amount to twenty yen and eighty-two sen. This is not a large sum, but is very good for a little congregation like ours, consisting of only ten communicants.

The average attendance on Sunday was five at the morning service, and ten in the evening.

A Bible class was begun in the beginning of May, and was held on every Wednesday evening. Those who attend this class are all very earnest.

By the end of July we secured a pretty house with a large garden for our preaching house and my residence, on the street not very far from the former house, and much more quiet, for we felt that the former was too small and too retired from the street.

A knitting class has been carried on since November by Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Rowe. There were four girls coming to this class at the beginning of December when Mrs. Kennedy's illness and removal to a new house obliged her to stop work for a time. But I am glad the work is still continuing and is getting more prosperous.

Since Mr. Kennedy came here we have gradually been arranging the inside of our preaching house so that we can serve God orderly and reverentially. A pretty baby organ which was bought with the money given by the bishop was placed in the preaching house since December. This is a great addition to the feature of the room, and makes our service more hearty than before.

In February we commenced a mission at Nakagawate Mura, ten miles north of Matsumoto. We have eight enquirers there. They are all members of a young men's association which has no religious tint. I first made their acquaintance at one of their general meetings, where I was asked to give an address, and since then I have been continually visiting them.